

Message Text

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S E C R E T ROME 11978

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IT, GR, TU

SUBJECT: DUCCI VISIT TO ATHENS AND ANKARA

REF: ATHENS 6211

1. DCM SAW POLITICAL DIRECTOR DUCCI AUGUST 30 FOR REPORT ON LATTER'S TRIP EARLIER THIS WEEK TO ATHENS AND ANKARA. MUCH OF DUCCI'S INFORMATION IS UNDOUBTEDLY KNOWN TO THE DEPARTMENT BUT SINCE IT IS NEW TO US WE ARE REPORTING IT IN SOME DETAIL.

2. DUCCI SAW FOREIGN MINISTERS IN BOTH CAPITALS AS WELL AS OTHER OFFICIALS. HE ALSO HAD A USEFUL CONVERSATION IN ATHENS WITH AVEROFF WHO IS PARTICULARLY FRIENDLY WITH THE ITALIANS FOR WELL KNOWN REASONS.

3. DUCCI SAID THAT THE GREEKS SEEM TO BE "VERY REALISTIC" AND UNDERSTAND THEY HAVE ONCE AGAIN LOST TO THE TURKS. HE SAID IT SEEMED INCREDIBLE TO HIM THAT THE GREEKS WHO STARTED THE EVENTS IN CYPRUS SEEMED TO HAVE NO IDEA HOW FAR CYPRUS WAS FROM GREECE AND HOW NEAR IT WAS TO TURKEY. SPEAKING PERSONALLY HE EXPRESSED THE CONVICTION THAT KARAMANLIS WAS CONTENT WHEN THE BRITISH

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REFUSED TO PROVIDE AIR COVER FOR A GREEK DIVISION TO GO TO CYPRUS.

IN HIS VIEW, DUCCI SAID, KARMANLIS' ACTION IN MOVING A DIVISION TO CRETE WAS A CONVENIENT WAY OF GETTING IT AWAY FROM ATHENS.

4. THE TURKS HAVE SEIZED AN HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY TO SOLVE THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THESE ARE (A) CYPRUS, (B) CONTROL OF CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THE AGEAN AND (C) DEAL WITH THE QUESTION OF GREEK ISLANDS CLOSE TO THE TURKISH COAST. IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE TURKS WISHED TO DEAL WITH THESE MATTERS SEPARATELY OR JOINTLY. DUCCI SAID THAT IN ATHENS HE SENSED THAT NO DECISION HAD BEEN MADE ON THAT POINT EITHER.

5. DUCCI HAS COME AWAY WITH THE BELIEF THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES THAT IT MUST PAY FOR THE "SILLY" ADVENTURE OF THE COLONELS BUT WISHES TO PAY A MINIMUM AND NOT ENDANGER THE PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN GREECE. AVEROFF REPORTEDLY COMMENTED THAT THE FIRST PURGE OF THE GREEK MILITARY HAD GONE WELL BUT NO ONE KNOWS HOW, WHEN AND IF THE MILITARY MIGHT REACT. A SOLUTION MUST BE FOUND WHICH WILL PREVENT A REACTION FROM THE RIGHT OR POLITICAL CHAOS. IN THIS SPIRIT THE GREEKS ARE READY TO RESUME THE NEGOTIATIONS PROVIDED THE TURKS MAKE SOME GESTURE PRIOR TO NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WILL PERMIT KARAMANLIS TO GO TO THE CONFERENCE TABLE "WITHOUT A PISTOL AT HIS HEAD". DUCCI SAID THE TURKS ARE NOT READY TO MAKE THIS GESTURE AND THUS THE IMPASSE EXISTS.

6. REGARDING THE SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR A UN FORUM FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS, DUCCI SAID THE GREEKS WERE SURPRISED THAT THE UNITED STATES DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE NECESSITY FOR KARAMANLIS TO ACCEPT THE SOVIET PROPOSAL. FIRST THE GREEKS KNEW THE TURKS WOULD REJECT IT AND SECONDLY THEY FELT THEY HAD NOTHING TO LOSE IN AGREEING. HOWEVER, IN DUCCI'S VIEW THEY REALLY DO NOT WISH TO TRY TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM IN A LARGE FORUM BECAUSE THEY RECOGNIZE THAT MUCH HARD BARGAINING WILL BE NECESSARY. AT THE MOMENT, HOWEVER, THEY ARE KEEPING ALL OPTIONS OPEN.

7. WITH REGARDS TO THE TURKS, DUCCI FOUND THEM SOMEWHAT INTOXICATED WITH SUCCESS BUT HE HEARD SOBER AND REALISTIC COMMENTS. HE SAID THAT THEY REPEATED THEIR STATEMENTS THAT THE PRESENT DEMARCATION LINE IS "NOT NON-NEGOTIABLE". HE THINKS THAT ONCE THE SIZE OF THE TURKISH CANTON IS AGREED UPON THE REFUGEE SITUATION WILL BE MUCH EASIER. DUCCI SAID THE TURKS

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DO NOT WISH TO SEE EITHER TWO INDEPENDENT STATES OR A DOUBLE ENOSIS, BECAUSE THEY REALIZE THIS WILL BE UNPOPULAR WITH WORLD OPINION AND ALSO THEY DO NOT WISH TO HAVE ANOTHER FRONTIER WITH GREECE.

8. IN SUMMATION DUCCI SAID THAT BOTH THE TURKS AND GREEKS ARE BASICALLY SENSIBLE. HE THINKS THE ALLIES SHOULD AVOID PUTTING TOO MUCH PRESSURE ON KARAMANLIS WHO HAS HIS OWN INTERNAL PROBLEMS. IF THE TURKS COULD BE GENEROUS IN THEIR

PRESENT VICTORIOUS STATE AND MAKE SOME KIND OF GESTURE IT WOULD
HELP THE MATTER TOWARD A SOLUTION. VOLPE

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